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The County Act And Our Duty

The decision of the Supreme Court in the County Act case makes the coming election a much more serious matter than it has been generally recognized to be. There is no longer a reason to doubt that we shall have county government in effect in less than a month from now, and it is therefore of vast importance to see that the best possible men are placed in charge of the administration of affairs. The men who take charge at the start will have a difficult task ahead of them. It is up to the citizens of Honolulu, to assist in making the best of things as they are. It is up to Territorial officials to give their co-operation.

Politically, the decision of the Supreme Court is a heavy blow at the local Democracy and a triumph for the Republican party. The principal prospective thunders of the local Democrats and Home Rulers was the failure of Republicans to fulfill their promise to introduce county government. The next pet subject of wild-oratory was that Carter was such an overbearing autocrat that even the courts obeyed his will. It is a hard job for the reckless class of political leaders who have so much to say in our opposition parties to the Supreme Court unanimously sustaining an act that was vetoed by the governor, called a "gold brick" by the governor and several times declared to be in his opinion unworkable and unconstitutional. The governor's opinion has proved wrong but he has many learned attorneys for company in error. And as if to prove that there is never a cloud without a silver lining, he can take some comfort in the Supreme Court's answer to the charge—a highly serious one,—that he was whispering controlling edicts into its ear.

Even the most radical opponents of the county system will admit that the success of the new act will have two very satisfactory results: It will end an agitation that could never be ended in any other way and which tended to disturb business and political conditions very materially, and it removes the danger of an overwhelming revival of Home Rule strength, for the failure of the county bill would have found the Republicans confronted by a very formidable Home Rule party next time. These two results are worth a good deal. No matter how many county acts the courts might defeat, the legislature would lead every session with the efforts to pass another and would base appropriations on a county system. In other words until the county issue was removed there was no chance for a legislature intelligently to carry out its duties. The prospect ahead was one of constant extra sessions, of appropriations in a condition of chaos and a dissatisfied electorate which would finally have secured action by Congress in the form of a county act probably far less suited to Hawaii than the one devised here after two years of study by leading lawyers and citizens. Taxpayers who look with alarm on the prospect of expenses of counties may take comfort in these reflections. Extra sessions cost money, and the Congressional idea of a county system would probably be one with a much more complete and expensive machinery than the one to take effect here next month.

Torpedo Boats And Destroyers

Complete details of the mighty sea conflict between the Japanese and Russian fleets have not been made public, but from the few facts that are known, it is evident that the torpedo boat and destroyer flotillas played a very important part in the defeat of the Russians. In fact it seems likely that the smaller craft which until recently have been rather neglected in some of the other navies, so damaged the Russian vessels and demoralized the crews of the Russians that the work by the heavier Japanese vessels was made comparatively easy.

While the Japanese have shown unusual aptitude for torpedo boat work, they are not by any means the only people that have gained efficiency in that character of naval warfare. The German navy is very proficient in torpedo boat work, as Emperor William is understood to have long held the opinion that in the event of a war that part of his sea service would contribute greatly toward the gaining success over his enemy. The work of the Germans is said by those who have witnessed that character of operations, to be of the highest state of proficiency, at least so far as the handling of the vessels is concerned.

The United States is by no means behind in this branch of naval warfare, and now that its value has been strikingly demonstrated by the Japanese, the Americans will undoubtedly take the lead in torpedo work. The United States has now in commission 40 torpedo boats and destroyers, has seven more building and also has eight submarines. The latter are as yet untried, at least so far as the reports of the naval operations in the Far East have indicated. The torpedo work of the United States navy is being constantly improved and the Japanese success will cause even greater activity. It is not strange, however, that the Japanese should be so successful in their torpedo boat work. They are small and few of them have been used to luxuries and comforts on land. Where an average sized white man would find the quarters on a torpedo boat or a destroyer cramped and too confining, the Japanese has room in which to live. The existence does not become to him irksome and to this physical consideration is largely due the explanation of Japanese proficiency in the handling of small craft. How proficient the Japanese would appear on the larger boats, if coping with American or British or even French is a matter for conjecture.

The Naone Verdict

The Naone murder case has been one of the hardest fought legal contests ever waged here. Both the counsel for defense and the attorney general's department fought a brilliant battle. The defendant is found guilty, but no man on earth will ever be able to say how. The verdict is manslaughter, which means homicide without malice aforethought. Of course this means a conclusion that Naone was sane. Evidently the idea is that Naone shot his defenseless wife, not in a spirit of malice, but with a kindly and Christian intent: He had the charity to want to spare her further life with him.

Experience To The Point

In view of the efforts that have been made in Hawaii to repeal the law requiring compulsory vaccination of school children, the following from the weekly report of the Commissioner of Health of the City of Chicago is of interest: Chief Medical Inspector Spalding reports thirty-three cases of smallpox removed to the Isolation Hospital during the week. Not one of these had ever been revaccinated and twenty had never been vaccinated.

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ed at all. Three were school children in attendance on false certificates of vaccination and five were children under the school age—the victims of parental criminal neglect.

If there ever was experience that seemed to prove conclusively the benefit of repeated vaccination, it is this. In the face of this and similar experience everywhere repeated, there can be no doubt of the benefit, in the interest of public health, of compulsory vaccination.

It is said that Sheriff H. Henry discovered 662 things to which he objected in the Japanese play he was asked to give a permit for.

The Japanese analysis of the Russian defeat attributes it to "imperfect reconnaissance, incomplete and misleading intelligence, imperfect battle formation, and inferior gunnery." It would seem as if there wasn't much else to expect but defeat after that.

It will take an act of the legislature now, to knock out the county act.

Up in San Francisco they are pretty unanimous in the opinion that Mrs. Stanford died from natural causes. Sheriff H. Henry, his deputy, and that Schneetady nephew, seem to be about the only people who think she was murdered.

The Czar is to appeal from the Grand Ducal cabal to the Zemsky Sobor.

It is said of Col. Macfarlane that he financed the ditch. Therein he differs from some others who have ditched the finances.

High Sheriff Henry having been rather unfortunate with the Stanford post mortem has decided not to wait until after death before coming to his conclusions about the Japanese play he was asked to issue a permit for.

Here is prophecy for you. At about the time the Star Extra was on the street yesterday afternoon, announcing that the Supreme Court had sustained the county act, Deacon Testa was working off the day's edition of the Independent in which was the following from his own pen: "If the Supreme Court judges are not running a race with the Governor to see which can knock the County Act first, we don't know what it is."

Now that the Russians are learning where Nebogotoff, the serious question is arising. Where will Nebogotoff?

Talk of action by the Civic Federation to put a county ticket in the field which shall be better than those now nominated is tardy. The election is less than three weeks away. The time for such associations and all other good citizens to become active is when the parties are having their primaries. This is especially true here, where independent movements are more than usually

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dangerous, for those who strive after their ideal man are likely to secure a Poeper.

Dead snakes are the only good snakes for Hawaii.

Henry E. Cooper appears to be in a position to do some crowing if he is that kind of a rooster. He knocked out one county act, set to work on another, and has successfully defended it. As he has been at one time or another at the head of every department of the government, he ought to know how to make the departments jibe with one another in a county act.

It will not take long for the Undertarried to begin repeating the charge that Carter is controlling the Supreme Court.

The Czar is going to appeal to the Zemsky Sobor to see whether to continue the war or not. If the Zemsky is perfectly Sobor it may be all right but there will be the dickens to pay if the Zemsky happens to be drunk.

Sereno Bishop says that Oahu is two or three million years old. In all that time there has never been a Democratic administration in power here!

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